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PORTO RICO.

Reports from San Juan and subports—Transactions for March, 1902.

SAN JUAN, P. R., *April 7, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the following report embracing the quarantine transactions at San Juan and the 6 subports of the island; for the month of March, 1902:

San Juan.—Number of vessels inspected, 28; number of bills of health issued, 35; number of vessels held in quarantine, 3; number of vessels disinfected, none; number of persons detained at the quarantine station, none; number of pieces of baggage disinfected, 26; number of packages of mail disinfected, 2; persons vaccinated, none.

There arrived and departed upon the 1st instant French steamship *Fournel*, from Port Limon and Haitien ports. This vessel brought no cargo or passengers for Porto Rico and she was allowed to take cargo for ports in Europe under guard.

The provisional flag steamship *Julia* entered upon the 19th on her regular schedule from Cuban and Dominican ports, having undergone, as usual, disinfection at Santiago de Cuba. She brought no passengers requiring detention or baggage for disinfection, and was therefore granted free pratique.

On the 20th the Spanish steamship *Ciudad de Cadiz* arrived from Havana, Port Limon, Colon, Baranquilla, Puerto Cabello, La Guayra, and Ponce. Bills of health presented by this vessel were clean and the 10 passengers for this port were considered immune and permitted to land. The vessel was held in quarantine under guard while here to detain passengers in transit for Havana. One package of mail was removed to the station and subjected to formalin disinfection.

On the 21st the French steamship *Ferdinand de Lesseps* arrived from Port au Prince, Petit Goave, Gonaives, and Cape Haitien. All bills of health clean. She carried no passengers or mail for this port. The ship was detained in quarantine under guard while here.

On the 28th the provisional flag steamship *Maria Herrera*, from Cuban and Dominican ports (her regular monthly schedule), entered. All passengers for this port were permitted to land, being considered immune. Twenty-six pieces of baggage and 1 sack of mail embarked at Puerto Plata were taken to the island and disinfected with steam and formalin. As the vessel had been disinfected at Santiago de Cuba she was granted free pratique.

I inclose herein the vital statistics of San Juan.

The smallpox situation in San Juan gives no cause for alarm. This is also true of all other localities of this island in which the disease has made its appearance. The disease is of exceedingly mild type, no deaths being reported. Reports relative to the number of cases, the localities of same, etc., have been and will be made the subject of separate reports from time to time.

The following embraces a summary of the reports received from the several subports as to vessels inspected during March, 1902: Mayaguez, 10; Arecibo, 3; Humacao, 5; Aguadilla, 4; Fajardo, none; Arroyo, 3.

The following is a report of the mortality at the subports during March, 1902: Mayaguez, 98; Arecibo, 73; Humacao, 45; Aguadilla, 35; Fajardo, 37; Arroyo, 10.

Nothing unusual is reported from the subports.

Respectfully, H. S. MATHEWSON,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,
Chief Quarantine Officer for Porto Rico.

The SURGEON-GENERAL, *U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Inclosure.]

Vital statistics of San Juan, P. R., for the month of March, 1902.

Anæmia	2	Nephritis	2
Asystolia	4	Pernicious fever	1
Athrepsia	8	Pleurisy	1
Broncho-pneumonia	5	Puerperal fever	1
Cachexiæ	2	Pulmonary emphysema	2
Cancer of the uterus	2	Pulmonary tuberculosis	7
Cancer of the throat	1	Pulmonary hemorrhage	1
Cardiac lesion	3	Rhachitis	2
Diarrhoea	1	Rupture of the heart	1
Debility	1	Tetanus	2
Eclampsia, post-partum	1		
Encephalitis	2	Total	76
Endo-carditis	1		
Enteritis	7	March, 1901—	
Entero-colitis	4	Births	71
Gastro-enteritis	6	Deaths	38
Meningitis	2	March, 1902—	
Myelitis	1	Births	88
Mitral insufficiency	2	Deaths	76
Murdered	1		

Reports from Ponce—Transactions for March, 1902.

PONCE, P. R., *April 7, 1902.*

SIR: Through the chief quarantine officer for Porto Rico, I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended April 5, 1902. Also the summary of transactions of this station and mortality report of the city for the month of March, 1902.

During the week 3 vessels were inspected and passed and 6 bills of health were issued to outgoing vessels.

Of the 6 cases of smallpox reported in last week's letter the local board of health states that 4 were varicella, and these have been discharged and 6 new cases entered. Of the 2 admitted cases of smallpox, 1 has been discharged. It is common talk that there is a large number of concealed cases rather generally scattered among all classes of people, but the board of health seems unable to find them. Even the cases in their hospital are not on the official report of the board. The disease is generally spoken of as "varicella," and possibly some of it is, but I think the majority is smallpox.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Mortality statistics—Number and causes of deaths in Ponce jurisdiction (city, playa, and surrounding country) during the month of March, 1902.

PONCE, P. R., *April 7, 1902.*

Diseases of—			
Digestive system	26	Senile cachexiæ	1
Respiratory system	5	Cancer	4
Circulatory system	5	Tetanus, traumatic	1
Nervous system	14	Dysentery	2
Anæmia, malnutrition, inanition	11	Puerperal fever	3
Malaria	10	Uræmia	3
Tuberculosis	8	Unknown causes	1
Hepatitis	1		
Rhachitis	1	Total	96